

JOINT SCRUTINY PANEL

Tuesday, 10th March, 2015

Present:-

Councillor Innes (CBC) (Chair)

Councillors Slack (CBC)

Heffer (BDC)

Sue Broadhead, Overview and Scrutiny Manager (NEDDC)

Malcolm Clinton, BCN Consultancy Business Manager (CBC)

Anita Cunningham, Policy and Scrutiny Officer (CBC)

Martin Elliott, Committee and Scrutiny Coordinator (CBC)

Neil Johnson, Development and Growth Manager (CBC)

Claire Millington, Scrutiny Officer (BDC)

Jenny Williams, Interim Head, Internal Audit Consortium (CBC)

19 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations were received.

20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Windle (NEDDC) and Turner (BDC).

The meeting did not have members from all three authorities in attendance to be quorate. The Chair decided that the meeting should continue and that any recommendations would be presented at the next Joint Scrutiny meeting for approval.

21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Panel held on 4 November, 2014 were presented.

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

22 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED -

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

23 BCN CONSULTANCY (BUILDING CONTROL) UPDATE

The Development and Growth Manager (CBC) and the BCN Consultancy Business Manager (CBC) presented a report detailing the current financial position of BCN as at the end of January 2015. The report also outlined the progress made towards the establishment of a Derbyshire wide Building Control service for Derbyshire.

The Development and Growth Manager made a presentation and answered questions from members on how BCN might be incorporated into a Derbyshire wide service and the benefits and challenges that this would present.

Members asked when the Derbyshire wide service could be launched. The Development and Growth Manager advised that the proposals would be presented to the Joint Board for approval and that if approved the aim would be to have a full transfer of services to the Derbyshire wide service by April, 2016.

Members also asked about Erewash Borough Council who were not currently looking to join the proposed Derbyshire wide service. The Development and Growth Manager advised that Erewash had decided to consider whether to join the Derbyshire wide service when a decision on its creation had been made. Members also asked numerous questions about the increased commercial freedoms that a Derbyshire wide service would have which the Development and Growth Manager and the BCN Consultancy Business Manager gave further information on.

Members also noted with concern the ageing demographic of current BCN staff with significant numbers due to retire in the next five years.

The Development and Growth Manager advised members that there were currently no staff aged 20 – 30 employed at BCN Consultancy and that there was only one apprentice. Members agreed that for a Derbyshire wide service to be successful and have a secure future there was a need for younger staff more apprentices to be recruited. The Development and Growth Manager advised members that staff skills and development and appropriate recruitment would be a priority over the next 5 to 10 years.

Members thanked the Development and Growth Manager and the BCN Consultancy Business Manager for attending and answering their questions.

RESOLVED -

1. That the current financial position of BCN as at the end of January 2015 be noted.
2. That the work undertaken to date in exploring the option for a Derbyshire wide service be noted.
3. That the proposed implementation programme and next steps towards establishing a Derbyshire wide building control company be supported.
4. That a new Derbyshire wide service should aim to take on more apprentices to ensure the service has qualified staff needed to be successful into the future.

24 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – READMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That the public be readmitted to the meeting.

25 NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT BOARD

The notes of the meeting of the Joint Board held on 19 January, 2015 were presented. Members of the panel were pleased to note the development and good performance of the Chesterfield and North East

Derbyshire Credit Union and that its position appeared to be more sustainable and resilient.

RESOLVED –

That the notes of the meeting of the Joint Board held on 19 January, 2015 be noted.

26

INTERNAL AUDIT CONSORTIUM UPDATE REPORT

The Interim Head of the Internal Audit Consortium attended to provide an update on the progress made by the Internal Audit Consortium during the period April 2014 – January 2015 as measured against the business plan (budget) for the Consortium for 2014/15, as well as to seek approval for the revised 2014/15 business plan and draft business plan for 2015/16.

The Interim Head advised that the external consultants' review of the options for joint working/shared services in respect of internal audit across Derbyshire had now been completed and that the consultants had recommended moving towards a Derbyshire wide internal audit partnership. Officers were now looking at the options and viability of moving towards such a partnership and it was noted that the Joint Board would be kept informed of progress. An update on staffing matters, internal audit plans and working procedures was also provided.

Members asked several questions about the working relationship with, and the income received from Derbyshire Dales District Council for the provision of its internal audit management service.

Members thanked the Interim Head of the Internal Audit Consortium for attending and answering their questions.

RESOLVED –

1. That the progress made by the Internal Audit Consortium through 2014/15 be noted
2. That the revised Business Plan (budget) for 2014/15 and the draft Internal Audit Consortium Business Plan (and associated charges) for 2015/16, be supported.

3. To support that the recommendation that the Internal Audit Consortium's accumulated surplus as at 31 March 2015 (less £50,000) be distributed to the partner authorities.
4. To support the recommendation that £50,000 be held as a working balance, and to fund any possible changes resulting from the review of the Internal Audit Consortium's staffing structure, and to support the next stage of implementation of the Derbyshire wide review of internal audit.

27 **DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE OF THE JOINT SCRUTINY PANEL**

Members discussed the future and the usefulness of the Joint Scrutiny Panel. It was noted that Procurement was no longer a shared service between the three authorities, and that their two remaining shared services of BCN and Internal Audit were both considering extending the shared arrangement with other Councils across Derbyshire. Implications of new partnership arrangements such as the Combined Authorities, were also raised.

Members agreed that for the panel to be useful their work programme needed to reflect what the Joint Board was doing. Members also agreed that they were keen for the panel to be more active and to have project groups looking at specific topics as happened in the past.

RESOLVED -

That the Joint Board be asked to consider and inform the Joint Scrutiny Panel of its future plans and work programme as this would directly influence the work and the future of the Joint Scrutiny Panel.

28 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED –

That the next meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Panel be held in the week commencing 15 June, 2015 at Bolsover District Council and that the Scrutiny Officer (BDC) would advise of members and officers of the specific date and time after checking room availability.